31st October 1931]

Rates fixed for grazing permits in Salem district.

* 427 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what were the grazing rates originally fixed by the Government in various forest areas in Salem district; and

(b) whether the rates have been increased subsequently, and if so, by how much?

A.—(a) In 1890, the following rates of grazing fees were fixed as a maximum, subject to the condition that only half the rates should be the maximum for agricultural cattle:—

	AS.
Buffaloes	8
Bulls, cows, etc.	4
Sheep and goats	2

In 1895, the above differentiation between the agricultural cattle and others was abolished and the following uniform rates were prescribed, viz.—

	AS.
Buffaloes	6
Bulls, cows, etc.	3
Sheep and goats	1½

(b) The rates have since been revised according to local conditions. A statement[a] showing the existing rates is appended.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR:—" May I know, Sir, the reasons for raising the rates of grazing fees to more than double or treble the old rates? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" It was raised in the interests of good cattle and also in the interests of the forests."

Wages paid to the aborigines employed by forest officials in Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks.

* 428 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the arrangements in force for the forest officials in Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks of Godavari Agency to obtain the necessary labour for work in forests, etc., in their respective charges;

(b) whether the aborigines are required to furnish the labour needed by the forest officials; if so, under what conditions and on what terms; and

(c) the scale of wages paid to the aborigines when employed by the forest officials?

[a] Printed as Appendix VII on page 337 infra.

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A.—(*a*) The following arrangements are in force:—

The forest subordinates apply to the headman or patel of the village and the latter arranges the requisite labour. During the time of harvest the patel raises a party at the rate of one for each kamatham (a group of two or three families formed for the purposes of cultivation). The wages of all the labourers from a village were being paid to the patel until last year. But as this system of paying wages to the patels did not work satisfactorily, the system of paying each individual is being introduced in some places as an experimental measure. In apportioning the work among the several villages, care is taken not to indent on a single village for too much labour.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(*c*) Generally the labourers are paid on the quantity or outturn basis. But in a few cases daily wages are paid at the rate of four annas per male and three annas per female.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" In view of the fact that the wild tribes in these districts are asked to do forced labour and they are not often paid any wages at all, will Government be pleased to make an enquiry considering the desirability of stopping this forced labour?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" There is no forced labour."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" Have the Government made enquiries?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" The Government are aware that there is no such thing as forced labour."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), are we to take it that the system of paying for compulsory labour is going to be introduced throughout this Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" We are not here concerned with the Presidency as a whole but with the particular forest area."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" I am asking whether a similar system will be adopted in other parts of the Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" That has nothing to do with the present question."

Alleged exaction of forced labour from the aborigines by the forest officials of Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks.

* 429 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is not a fact that the forest officials in Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks of Godavari Agency exact forced labour from the aborigines at a low wage of annas 8 per week; and